

"TWO NINES" MAY BE "BIG BILL" TO ADDICATE?

By Sending in that Call for a Flat-House Fire He Left the Centre of the City Absolutely Unprotected.

CROKER WAS ALARMED. FEARS HE MIGHT BE AN ISSUE

As Fast as the Great Array of Engines Dashed Up to the Blaze He Sent Them Back—Charges May Be Preferred Against Purroy.

Deputy Fire Chief Charles Purroy, in the interest of whose ambition for the chiefship Commissioner Sturges flew in the face of public opinion and dismissed Fire Chief Croker on the dismissal of charges, had a chance yesterday to show the kind of a Chief he'd make. In consequence, the whole Fire Department is asking to-day whether or not the ambitious Deputy will not have charges for inefficiency preferred against him.

Purroy rushed down to the flat house fire in West Sixty-fifth street yesterday afternoon, and when he found that after a third alarm he got but three engines and two trucks he lost his head. He knew there was another fire at Fifty-eighth street and Madison avenue for which three alarms had been sounded, and he sent in the "two nines." Then he got such a rush of fire apparatus that it kept Chief Croker busy for hours sending the engines and trucks back to their quarters.

"It was pointed out to-day that the whole city from Eighty-first street to Fifth street, from river to river, was left without fire protection of any sort. The great Twenty-third street shopping district, which is one of the most important in the city, had not an engine or a truck within miles of it. Had a fire started in it, the most disastrous fire in New York history ever known would have followed before help could possibly have come."

Croker was alarmed. There is great unanimity of opinion that Purroy's action was utterly unwarranted. Chief Croker is guarded in his statements about the case, but he was evidently in great alarm yesterday until he had got the engines away from the flat-house fire to the respective stations throughout the city.

"I do not want to criticize Chief Purroy," he said to an Evening World reporter. "I would not be backed up in any criticisms that I would make, but I will say that this is the first time in the history of the New York Fire Department that the two nines call has been sounded for a third alarm fire. Had I been there I should not have done it. I should have sounded a fourth alarm from the box at Columbus and Broadway. Sixty-eighth street or a fifth from the box at Central Park West and Sixty-ninth street. A fourth alarm would have brought seven engines and three trucks, or within one engine of the complement which would have arrived on the third alarm had there not been a three-alarm fire at Fifty-eighth street and Madison avenue. That would have been a report on the fire to Commissioner Sturges and until then I do not wish to say any more."

Sounded the "Two Nines." Instead of turning in this fourth alarm Purroy sent in the "two nines." In consequence he got but three engines and two trucks. The two alarms came in. The danger was over there and thinking that the whole west side must be on fire the Chief dashed over to Sixty-fifth street. The rest of the engines and trucks followed as fast as they could get away, so that in all twenty-five engines, eleven trucks and two water towers went to Sixty-fifth street, which needed only five or six streams to keep it down but was being drenched and alarmed. He realized that a whole section of the city was at the mercy of another blaze, if one should start, and as fast as the engines rattled up and reported for duty he sent them back to their quarters.

There was such a jam of engines around Sixty-fifth street that cars were stopped. They got in each other's way. Reserves from five police precincts were called out by the "two nines" and police protection was thereby lessened in those precincts.

Purroy says he was right. He says that if confronted with the same situation he would gain said in the "two nines."

"When I got to the fire," he said, "I found one engine on the scene. The captain told me a third alarm was being sent in. I knew there was a third alarm at Fifty-eighth street, and sent in without waiting for a second. I needed a certain complement to beat the fire and I was sure of getting it to the two nines than I was by a fourth alarm. Suppose the Fifty-eighth street fire had needed a fourth call? Where would I have been had I sent in a fourth? It was my business to know and not to guess, and had I not sent in the 'two nines' I should have laid myself liable to censure."

"The most I got at the fire were nine engines and five trucks. It is not true that there were twenty-five engines at the fire. I needed all the complement I got, and this talk about the 'two nines' being a mistake is all poppycock."

BROTHER OF BAILEY LOSES WILL FIGHT.

(Special to The Evening World.)

PATERSON, N. J., Dec. 11.—Judge Francis Scott, in the Orphans' Court to-day, rendered a decision in the Peter Bailey will case upholding the intent of the document which gave the bulk of a million-dollar estate to his son, Josiah, and allowed his second wife only \$15,000 for life.

Mr. Bailey was the junior member of the silk firm of Ashley & Bailey, of New York and Paterson, with mills scattered all through Pennsylvania. The will, contested the will, endeavoring to prove that under influence had been exercised on behalf of the son. There were many hearings over the will, and the case had been pending for some time. The court, after a long and careful consideration, has now rendered its decision in favor of the son, Josiah, and against the second wife, Mrs. Bailey.

Tammany Hall Hears Ex-Chief Devery Has Tired of the District Leadership and Is Ready to Give It Up.

Anyhow, He Has Declared He Will Not Associate with the "Loobers" in Fourteenth Street—Alderman Dowling May Succeed Him.

Here is the latest news at Tammany Hall regarding the leadership of "Big Bill" Devery. He has tired of the leadership already and is to give way to a younger and more acceptable man in Tammany's ranks.

He is willing to give way because certain "big" men in Tammany have told him if he remains in control in his district he will be made an issue of in the next campaign.

This talk now becomes important with the coming organization of the General Committee in the various Assembly Districts, which, according to law, must meet between the 15th and 21st of the present month and elect members to the Executive Committee of Tammany Hall.

This will be a formal vote of course, as the leader in each district is the member, but in the case of Devery the question is a very different one. He has said that he would not associate with the "loobers" in the Fourteenth street Wigwag, consequently his refusal to meet the others will leave his district practically unrepresented in the councils of the Executive Committee.

This fact alone will decide his district of certain favors, patronage and "grift," and this will prove a stumbling block, it is argued, to the future of the district. This argument has been used with good effect on "Big Bill" and it is said he is now willing to step aside and give one who is willing to mix with the "loobers" a chance.

"This one is Frank L. Dowling, who has already been a fight for the leadership against Devery Dowling and is said to be in favor of those at Tammany Hall. He is a young and aggressive fellow and he and Devery are friends. He is explaining that he will not lose all of his political prestige and can still have a say in the quiet in the political councils which may interest the district."

This story is accepted at Tammany Hall, but "Big Bill" may kick over the traces at any moment, and then what becomes of the said plans of mice, men and politicians?

COAL BARON'S CREED EXPOSED.

Independent Operator Testifies that He Is Paid but a Small Price for His Product by the Lackawanna Road.

HUGE PROFITS ARE SHOWN.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 11.—Lawyers for the miners sprung a surprise on the coal companies at the opening of today's proceedings by calling to the witness stand J. L. Crawford, one of the prominent independent coal operators. He is President of the People's Coal Company, which operates the Oxford colliery of section.

"When did you ship coal last?" said Mr. Darrow.

"Yesterday."

"What are you getting for it?"

"I don't know exactly."

"Can you come near it?"

"I can if I want to."

"Don't you want to?"

"No, sir."

"You are a party to this commission and went to New York to see the coal presidents?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then you refuse to give this commission the information?"

"I don't think I am compelled to tell."

"Which road do you sell to?"

"Delaware, Lackawanna and Western."

"What do you get for it?"

"About 55 per cent of what the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western gets."

At this point attorneys for the operators objected to the inquiry proceeding any further along the lines of what a company's profits were.

Mr. Darrow said he called the witness to show that the coal companies were able to pay advance in wages asked for. Wayne MacVeagh, in his cross-examination of Mr. Mitchell, he said, intimated that the increase, if granted, would ultimately be placed on the bowed backs of the poor. The companies are well able to give the increase asked for without putting it on the poor.

Mr. Darrow then continued the examination:

"How many tons do you produce a day?"

"Nine hundred to 1,000 tons."

"And you don't know how much you get for it?"

"I can give an estimate."

"Well, what is it?"

"On further examination Mr. Crawford said that during the latter part of the strike, his colliery was in operation and he got \$20 a ton for his coal."

Chairman Gray then stopped the examination, saying that the exceptionally high prices during the strike were not pertinent to the inquiry.

The miners called several witnesses who told of conditions at the collieries at A. A. Hazleton region. One of the witnesses was a boy who said he lost a leg in the mines, and was forced for a long time, but instead when he returned to work the company took off his wages his father's debts.

Mr. Darrow here announced that this was the last witness he had for the case.

CROWDS OF POOR WAITING IN THE COLD FOR COAL AT THE SALVATION ARMY INDUSTRIAL HOME.



MAYOR LATE AT SUBWAY MEETING

Lingered So Long Over Lunch—All the Rapid Transit Commissioners Got Very Anxious About Him.

FOR 104TH STREET STATION. NOW WEARS PRISON JEANS.

Mayor Low lingered over his lunch in the Hardware Club to-day and was late for the opening of the meeting of the Rapid Transit Commission. Chairman Alexander E. Orr anxiously consulted his watch pending the arrival of the Mayor.

"The Mayor is late," commented Mr. Orr. "So I note," said Woodbury Langdon, slipping his gold chronometer into his waistcoat pocket.

Presently the Mayor hustled in, bowed and smiled, and with an apology "I am late," dropped into his accustomed seat.

Business was then under way. Chairman Orr informed the Commission that the expenses of the chief engineer and the general expenses of the Board for the coming year would be \$52,000, which he said was \$31,000 less than the amount asked for last year.

Comptroller Grant suggested that a tabulated list of expenses be furnished before the bill is sent to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

The matter of the station for the subway at One Hundred and Fourth street, which was originally planned for that point and subsequently set aside by the Commission against the protests of property owners, came up on the suggestion of the Mayor. He wanted to be informed, he said, whether the building of the station would embarrass the Commission or seriously delay the work on the subway if it was decided finally to build it.

The Mayor pondered over a letter from a woman who said that the present station on the subway at One Hundred and Fourth street was wholly unsuited to the increased traffic, and that business was so brisk there that three ticket sellers were engaged selling tickets.

Never Gets a Seat. "I have to wait many mornings from ten to fifteen minutes for a train," she wrote, "and then I never get a seat."

The Mayor asked her to hold a station in the subway at One Hundred and Fourth street was much needed. The matter went over until next Thursday.

MRS. JAMES GETS A WARRANT Takes Steps to Get Husband Away from His Mother.

Magistrate Brann, in the Yorkville Court, this afternoon, issued a warrant for the arrest of Herbert James, on the complaint of his wife, who charges desertion. The Magistrate announced that the warrant would be served early to-morrow morning.

This charge is really a technical one. Mrs. James believes that her husband is held a prisoner by his mother in her West End home. She has threatened to bring habeas corpus proceedings against the elder Mrs. James to force her to bring him up.

Mrs. James was married to James last week. He left her an hour after the ceremony to go to see his mother, who was ill. She had bitterly opposed his marriage. Through her influence he had refused to marry once before and Mrs. James then Mrs. May-said him for \$2,000. She compromised for \$200 and later married him.

Charles C. Browne, the silk examiner, jointly indicted by the Federal Grand Jury with A. S. Rosenthal and Martin P. Cohn on charges of conspiracy, and also individually for aiding and assisting as a revenue officer in the passing of alleged fraudulent invoices in the importation of Japanese silks, to-day surrendered himself in the Criminal Branch of the United States Circuit Court.

Browne was accompanied by his lawyer, Judson G. Wells, of No. 10 East Potters street, who took his client before Judge Thomas, where he was admitted to bail in \$7,500, which was promptly furnished by Charles H. Louis, a cotton importer of Nos. 159 and 191 Greene street, and Meyer Foster, a cigar manufacturer of No. 133 Third avenue, were the sureties.

An adjournment was granted and Judge Thomas fixed Tuesday as the day for pleading.

Jim Dumps his luncheon off would eat at "Hashem House" in "Hustle Street."

There men gulped heavy meals each day While Jim ate "Force"—but now they say

The wisest men all follow him— Save health, time, cash, like "Sunny Jim."

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